

## Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 NSC-05 ORM-01 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INSE-00 AID-05 SR-02 VO-03 DODE-00 PM-03 L-02 IO-10

SCA-01 SP-02 PRS-01 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /071 W

----- 070549

O P 170423Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3486

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6726

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD SS EURYBATES

REF: STATE 115809

1. S.S. EURYBATES LEAVING MANILA MAY 17, SCHEDULED  
ARRIVE HONG KONG MORNING MAY 19. EURYBATES HAD SPACE  
RPT SPACE CHARTER CONTRACT WITH USAID WHICH HAS BEEN  
COMPLETED WITH DISCHARGE OF CARGO AT MANILA TWO OR THREE  
DAYS AGO.

2. HOWEVER, OWNERS FOR EURYBATES, WHO HAVE BEHAVED IN  
HIGH-HANDED WAY HERE IN MANILA THROUGH ACTIONS OF  
REPRESENTATIVE SENT FROM NEW YORK, HAVE THREATENED  
CHARGE U.S. GOVERNMENT TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS A DAY  
DEMURRAGE CHARGES UNLESS WE ACCEPT REFUGEES VESSEL  
PICKED UP AT SEA.

3. IN ORDER PRECLUDE SUCH CHARGES, WE HAVE PREPARED FOL-  
LOWING STATEMENT TO BE SIGNED BY OWNERS REPRESENTATIVE:

QUOTE: I, THE UNDERSIGNED, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE OWNERS  
OF THE S.S. EURYBATES, HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY SAID OWNERS  
TO SEEK THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
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WITH RESPECT TO THIRTY-FIVE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES PICKED



UP BY THE EURYBATES IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. WHILE THE OWNERS ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR LIABILITY FOR THESE REFUGEES, THEY ARE SEEKING TO BE RELIEVED OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS REFUSED TO PERMIT THEM TO BE LANDED IN THE PHILIPPINES.

IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL UNDERTAKE TO ASSIST IN THE RESETTLEMENT OF THESE REFUGEES, THE OWNERS OF THE EURYBATES WILL, OF THEIR OWN VOLITION AND ON THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY, SAIL THE EURYBATES TO HONG KONG AND TURN THE REFUGEES OVER TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION, WHICH IN TURN WILL UNDERTAKE TO MOVE THE REFUGEES TO GUAM, AFTER WHICH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL UNDERTAKE THEIR RESETTLEMENT.

THE OWNERS OF THE EURYBATES HAVE AUTHORIZED ME TO STATE THAT ALL COSTS AND EXPENSES INVOLVED IN THE MOVEMENT OF THESE REFUGEES FROM MANILA TO HONG KONG ARE FOR THE ACCOUNT OF THE OWNERS, WHO ARE TAKING THESE ACTIONS AT THEIR OWN INITIATIVE AND FOR THEIR OWN CONVENIENCE. SPECIFICALLY, THE OWNERS STIPULATE THAT NO EXPENSE OR CHARGE SHALL BE ASSESSED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS INCURRED AFTER THE EURYBATES FINISHED OFF-LOADING CARGO IN MANILA WHICH WAS CONSIGNED TO UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT. ALL DELAYS AND DEMURRAGE INCURRED AFTER THE DISCHARGE OF THAT CARGO WAS COMPLETED WILL BE BORN BY THE OWNERS, WHO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SUCH DELAYS AND DEMURRAGE WERE FOR THEIR OWN CONVENIENCE. THE OWNERS EXPRESS THEIR APPRECIATION TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR THE GENEROSITY IT HAS SHOWN IN ASSISTING THEM WITH THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE REFUGEES. IF THERE ARE ANY EXPENSES INVOLVED EITHER IN HONG KONG OR IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF THESE REFUGEES BEYOND HONG KONG, THE OWNERS ASSURE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT THEY WILL WILLINGLY ACCEPT AND PAY SUCH EXPENSES TO WHATEVER AGENCIES MAY BE INVOLVED. UNQUOTE

4. ALTHOUGH LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE HAS EXPRESSED BELIEF OWNERS WILL AUTHORIZE SIGNATURE OF STATEMENT, HE HAS REFERRED TEXT BACK TO NEW YORK AND ASSUMES HE WILL NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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RPT NOT RECEIVE AUTHORIZATION UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 19. HE HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT REFUGEES CAN NOT RPT NOT BE DISCHARGED HONG KONG UNTIL SUCH STATEMENT IS SIGNED, BECAUSE WE HAVE ON RECORD HERE HIS LETTER STATING THAT USG WOULD BE LIABLE FOR CHARGES OF \$10,000 PER DAY. REPRESENTATIVE UNDERSTANDS AND ACCEPTS THAT CONDITION.

5. PLEASE TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO PROTECT USG INTERESTS



IN THIS CASE BY HOLDING REFUGEES ABOARD SHIP UNTIL EMBASSY  
NOTIFIES YOU THAT REPRESENTATIVE HAS SIGNED PAPER HOLDING  
USG HARMLESS WITH RESPECT DELAYS AND DEMURRAGE. PLEASE  
ALSO INVESTIGATE WHAT, IF ANY, CHARGES ICEM WILL ASSESS  
FOR MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES TO GUAM AND WHAT OTHER CHARGES  
(BY HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, ETC.) MAY BE ASSESSED FOR  
LIABILITY OF OWNERS, SO THAT THEIR HONG KONG AGENTS WILL  
BE APPROPRIATELY INFORMED.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, POLICIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 MAY 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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